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*Von Kiel bis Kapp: zur Geschichte der Deutschen Revolution.*

Von GUSTAV NOSKE. (Berlin: Verlag für Politik und Wirtschaft. 1920. Pp. 211. M. 25.)

THIS is a comprehensive and important book by the socialist author of *Kolonialpolitik und Sozialdemokratie*. It covers the period of Noske's career from his appointment as revolutionary governor of Kiel, in November, 1918, until his dismissal as minister of national defense after the Kapp rebellion of March, 1920. The book, which is written in picturesque German, is packed with facts concerning the great personalities and the principal economic, political, and military events of the revolution, and explains with frankness and sincerity the important decisions of the Ebert government.

The chapters devoted to Noske's activities in the Kiel naval district form the first accurate account of that revolt of eighty thousand sailors, which was the prelude to the November revolution. The author is not certain that the German admiralty planned in October, 1918, to attack the British fleet. However, Admiral Scheer states in his memoirs that the fleet was ordered to proceed to the Belgian coast. In the Reinhardt controversy, Noske denies that the Prussian Minister of War saved Berlin from the Spartacists in January, 1919. He gives the credit to the troops with which he, as a People's Commissioner and commander-in-chief in the Marks, entered the capital on the morning of January 11. As Colonel Reinhardt had the day before stormed the *Vorwaerts* stronghold, he is undoubtedly entitled to the credit of holding the Spartacists at bay, until Noske marched from Dahlem. The author fails to mention that during the March rebellion he issued a false report of a massacre in Lichtenberg, which he used to justify his order of March 7, 1919, to exterminate the Spartacists (p. 109). He does not explain his order of June 21, 1919, prohibiting the railway strike, which was disavowed by the government. Although Scheidemann in *Der Zusammenbruch* has severely criticized Noske's drastic expressions in favor of peace, the author's arguments for accepting the terms of the Treaty of Versailles seem convincing.

Noske's account of the Bermont-Awaloff campaign illustrates the Russian policy of the German Republic. In this affair, the reactionary German officers were able to conceal their real plans from the socialist minister. Noske admits that he learned many of the details only after Bermont's failure (p. 180). Documents of Bermont, now in the Hoover War Collection, prove the duplicity of these Prussian militarists. The reviewer notes that Noske does not even mention the allied control of the Russian prisoner-of-war camps in Germany, which had an important effect upon the course of the revolution. The author asserts that after the armistice the socialist government enforced the old imperial law for universal military service in the eastern provinces in order to raise fresh troops (p. 113). The German

army numbered four hundred thousand men at the conclusion of peace (p. 167).

Noske quotes many of the attacks against his policies and denounces his opponents with extreme bitterness (p. 204). He exposes with equal fearlessness the corruption within the Social Democratic party. His analysis of the economic collapse of Germany is masterly. In his exposure of the conditions in the government factories of Kiel and Spandau, he shows the effects of the doctrine of socialization upon the German proletariat.

As a contribution to the history of the German revolution, the book of Gustav Noske is of immense value. It is a convincing account of the progress of the revolution in the face of attacks by Independents and Spartacists as well as by monarchists and reactionaries. The tragedy revealed by this memoir, is that the socialist deputy Noske believed in the *rocher de bronze* of Prussian militarism, but was deceived in the end by the very generals whom he had saved from the mob.

RALPH HASWELL LUTZ.

*History of South Africa from 1873 to 1884: Twelve Eventful Years.*

By GEORGE McCALL THEAL, Litt.D., LL.D. In two volumes. (London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1919. Pp. xvi, 352; xi, 312. 17s.)

THE labors of the indefatigable chronicler of South Africa have now reached a period "within the memory of men now living". The latest volumes, covering the period from 1873 to 1884, "twelve eventful years", as the subtitle announces, "with continuation of the history of Galekaland, Tembuland, Pondoland, and Bethsuanaland until the annexation of those territories to the Cape Colony, and of Zululand until its annexation to Natal", bring his monumental work with its extraordinary collection of series A, B, C, and now D, with their many editions and reissues to series D, volumes 10 and 11, the whole forming a veritable library in themselves. It is needless to say that all this represents an extraordinary amount of industry on the part of their author, and that it provides an immense mass of material relating to the history of South Africa. But it is only fair to say that in some important particulars these latest volumes, like their predecessors, with all their value, leave something to be desired as history. They are, in effect, rather chronicles than history in the modern sense. They have neither foot-notes nor references, and one searches in vain for the authorities for what are, especially in these present volumes, matters of high controversy, both political and historical. That lack is not greatly offset by the inclusion of tables of statistics, like those on the Revenue of Natal (II. 230-231), with similar data scattered through the books. For, especially in the years covered by these vol-